

22. The method of claim 20 wherein the chemical product data further comprises testing result data stored in the database in response to a sample testing request.
23. The system of claim 20 wherein the chemical product data comprises a starting point formulation and the chemical characteristics inherent to a formulation of the chemical product comprise chemical characteristics inherent to the starting point formulation.
24. The method of claim 23 wherein the system includes instructions to modify the starting point formulation based on target characteristics input by a user.
25. The method of claim 24 wherein the purchase order comprises an order for purchase of a chemical product based on said modified starting point formulation.

REMARKS

Applicant's comments may be preceded by relevant quotations of the Examiner from the Office Action, presented in small bold-faced type.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(a)

Claim 6-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by the services of the company/website www.worldwidetesting.com as described by the article "Worldwidetesting.com and Chemical.net™ announce strategic partnership (May 11, 2000. Press Release – Worldwide Testing.com) and the website www.worldwidetesting.com excised from "The Wayback Machine" (web.archive.org) dated from January to March 2000.

The Examiner's rejection is respectfully traversed. The Examiner's attention is drawn to the fact that the present application claims priority to a provisional patent application dated May 8, 2000. The May 8, 2000, provisional application discloses the claimed inventions and predates the cited "Worldwidetesting.com and Chemical.net™ announce strategic partnership" press release dated May 11, 2000 (the "Press Release").

Consequently, the Worldwidetesting.com and Chemical.net strategic partnership Press Release is not valid prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102(a). It follows then that claims 6-12 cannot be rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) in light of the Worldwidetesting.com and Chemical.net strategic partnership Press Release.

Other Remarks

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Claim ~~1~~ has been amended to further recite that the claimed system includes the ability to receive and process a purchase order and that the chemical product data comprising chemical characteristics inherent to a formulation of the chemical product. Thus, for example, purchase pricing and purchase volume information would be outside the scope of data "inherent" to a formulation (though, of course, purchase pricing and purchase volume information could be included together with the recited "inherent" data).

Prior to amendment, claim 1 recited that the chemical product data comprises a starting point formulation. This recitation of a "starting point formulation" has been removed from claim 1 and placed in dependent claim 17.

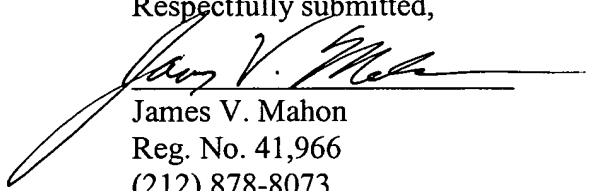
CONCLUSION

Claim 8 has been canceled, claims 6, 7 and 9 amended, and new claims 17-25 have been added. Claims 6-7, 9-12, and 17-25 are now pending and believed to be in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests that all pending claims be allowed.

Please apply any credits or excess charges to our deposit account number 50-0521.

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Respectfully submitted,


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